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ESPIONAGE/FBI>BROKAW: The first FBI agent ever charged with espionage, < >ARREST>Richard Miller, pleaded not guilty today, and so did the two Russians who are charged with conspiring with him to buy secret documents. George Lewis reports tonight that Miller's lawyers say they will prove that he really was doing his job as a counterspy.

LEWIS: Richard Miller, an FBI man for 20 years, now a federal prisoner charged with espionage. According to government officials in Los Angeles, Miller and Svetlana Ogorodnikova, a self-proclaimed KGB agent, were quite an item. She is charged with bribing Miller to turn over secret documents describing the FBI's efforts against Soviet spies. In court today, Miller, Ogarodnikova, and her husband, Nikoly, all pleaded not guilty to the spying and conspiracy charges. The judge set their trial for Dec. 4. Miller's wife, two of his eight children and his mother-in-law were present in court. His lawyers say the family stands behind him fully. According to the lawyers, Miller was investigating the Soviets, and when he told his superiors what he was doing, he was arrested. STANLEY GREENBERG (defense lawyer): I don't know that 'framed' is the right word. Again, he was conducting an investigation, not uncommon in that particular office.

LEWIS: So Miller's lawyers will try to prove he was just doing his duty when he contacted the Russian couple. The Ogarodnikova's lawyers haven't given any clues as to how their defense will be conducted. George Lewis, NBC News, Los Angeles. <